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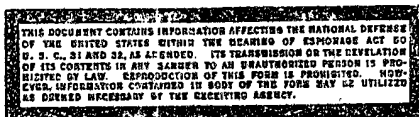
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HA-ERH-PIN INDUSTRIES MAKING PROGRESS

The experimental plant of the planning section, which is under the economic division, Northeast Administrative Commission, was originally called the Hanabu Gas Factory during the puppet Manchukuo regime. Since it resumed operations in July of last year, it has been expanded until there is now a gas division, a chemical division, and a machinery division. Workers have increased from 40 to over 270. Gas production is 120,000 cubic meters per month, and from last July to April of this year 1,110,000 cubic meters of gas were produced. In addition to Tao-li District, gas is now supplied to Nan-kang District, bringing the total number of factories and households being serviced to over 1,000.

The gas division will have five separate fractional distillation plants. The first, already in operation, is refining coal tar, a by-product of coal gas, to produce heavy, medium, and light oil and pitch. The other four plants will begin operations in September. In addition to the products mentioned, these fractional distillation plants will produce chemical for which there is a critical need in compounding /sulfa/ drugs and also carbonic acid, vitally necessary in certain chemical industries.

The chemical division was established this spring, and is now producing between 20,000 and 30,000 catties of sulfide dyes and sulfide-dye raw materials per month.

Construction work on the machinery division was completed in September of last year. The division has more than 20 lathes of various types. The products of this division included a number of drills for use in gold mining.

In order to solve the army's rubber-sole supply problem, the rubber-shoe factory of the Ha-erh-pin Chemical Industries Company increased its production of rubber soles to 300 pairs daily. It is expected that output will reach 4,000 pairs daily in July. Technicians such as T'ung Tzu-fu and Chiang Shih-hsiang of the Ha-erh-pin

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Chemical Industries Company have been experimenting with reprocessed rubber production and have met with success. It is expected that full-scale production will begin early in July. Daily output will probably reach 1,300 pounds. This should partially alleviate the rubber shortage in Ha-erh-pin.

Construction of the electric wire factory plant in the Ha-erh-pin Iron and Machine Works was started in January. Technical difficulties were encountered in making machinery for use in the factory, but most of these difficulties have been overcome and 17,000 meters of all-weather and insulated wire have been produced.

The Northeast Chemical Factory has been experimenting since last September on methods of manufacturing bakelite containers for military use. It has now started production of these containers.

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